

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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AGRICULTURE

HARRY FARMER'S TALKS.

CXIX.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

This has been an unusual spring—a warm March and a cool wet April. This has made insects very bad. The corn crop will be short on account of the insects killing so much. Some farmers have planted cotton on their corn lands. Early planting has given us success generally, but so much rain this year prevented early planting.

One farmer said that if you wish to get a good stand, plow only just a little bed to plant on, and leave the middle of the rows unbroken until the corn gets 10 to 12 inches high. This is not the best way to cultivate the land easily. But to leave this green strip covered with weeds and grass will no doubt give the insects something to feed on besides corn.

The early spring has given us early Irish potatoes and peas. We have had them as early as the middle of April, which is two weeks earlier than the average.

THE RIGHT WAY TO SAVE SEED.

A neighbor gave Mary Jane some garden pea seed. She took special pains with them, and after her early peas have been bearing three weeks the others are forming blossoms over three feet from the ground. No doubt these peas have been grown for several years and the last peas which grew on top have been saved for seed. Where any one wishes to save their own seeds they should be careful to save the first peas that come or save the whole crop borne by the plant. We have saved our snow or lima beans several years that way and generally have them ahead of any of our neighbors. This rule will apply to tomatoes, pepper, okra, cucumber, melons, egg plant, and a great many others. It is not best to save your own seed of every kind. You can often buy them cheaper but there are some plants which do better after they become acclimated. We have planted the same pepper, okra and collards for ten or twelve years and do not care to make any changes. Two or three years ago a lady sold large quantities of tomatoes while those grown by her neighbors rotted so badly that they could not get enough to supply their families. When asked why hers were so nice, she said that it was because she planted home-grown seed. We

give this for what it is worth. It takes just such little things as these to make the difference between success and loss.

TREATING SICK HOGS.

Some of our pigs got sick. The symptoms indicated cholera. The sick ones were separated from the others and not allowed any water excepting some which had about a teaspoonful of cooking soda (bicarbonate) to the quart of water. The feed consisted of wheat bran or corn meal with some liver regulator mixed with it. They refused to eat anything for about two days. After they commenced eating we gave them some oats and green food, such as cabbage leaves. In less than a week they appeared to be all right, excepting the loss of weight. We have tried these liver medicines for hogs with good results before. We would give the brands used but it would not be treating the publishers fair. The manufacturers lose a great deal by not advertising in the columns of The Progressive Farmer, as it reaches thousands of people that no other paper does in North Carolina.

HARRY FARMER.

Three or Four Questions.

A Nash County correspondent writes:

"I have a question to ask some brother. The question is how to raise cabbage seed in this country to be as good as those we buy? I am confident we can raise them here as well as anywhere else. If not, why not? We can raise any other seed."

Many attempts to raise first class cabbage seed in the South have been made, but without general success. The work seems to require a cooler climate.

A Guilford County reader asks: "In speaking of plowing four or six inches deep, do you mean that the soil shall be six inches deep after it is turned, or do you mean that the plow shall cut six inches deep on the land side?"

The meaning is six inches deep on the land side.

And here is another question: "Will a young cow that failed to give milk from one teat with her first calf ever give milk from that teat? Teat is open and some thin milk and water will come from it now."

We are told that it is probable that the cow will not give milk from that teat.

Ginseng Culture.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolia*), is a native perennial plant closely related to the garden parsnip, carrot and celery. It grows wild in oak and maple woods in all the more Northern States, and extends southward along the Alleghany Mountains. In North Carolina this plant is found only in high mountain valleys. It is found only in moist loamy soil under deep shade. The plant cannot endure the sun and when timber is cut out it dies from the locality. The plant as found growing wild is from 8 to 16 inches tall with from one to three leaves which are in turn composed of from 3 to 5 or rarely 7 leaflets. The leaflets are arranged like fingers on the hand; they are ovate, sharply toothed on edges and taper pointed at tip. The flowers are greenish-yellow and appear in July. The root resembles a parsnip.

Wild ginseng is extensively collected wherever it abounds. The rapacity of collectors is fast exterminating the plant and many attempts have been made to cultivate it artificially. Most such attempts have ended in failure. The plant is very difficult to grow and only with great care, patience and considerable expense is it possible to succeed.

The wild root, dried, brings about \$2.00 per pound. Cultivated roots often bring \$5.00 per pound. The market is China where this plant is the universal nostrum. American physicians say it has no medicinal virtue and never prescribe it. Owing to the frequent stories told of enormous profits to be made by cultivating this plant there is a constant demand from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture for advice regarding methods of growing ginseng. To those who want to try the experiment the following advice is offered:

1. Ginseng cannot be profitably grown any where in North Carolina east of the mountains. The climate is unsuitable.

2. There may be profit in growing ginseng west of the Blue Ridge.

3. Ginseng cannot be grown in full sunlight. It must have a loose, rich, moist and cool soil. Drought is fatal.

The plant is propagated from roots and from seeds. The plant produces seed in abundance, but the seed requires to be planted immediately after it becomes ripe, and then does not germinate until after 18

months. The best plan is to sow the seed as soon as ripe in shallow boxes, tack wire cloth over these to keep out mice and worms, and place box where it will be continually moist and well shaded. Let the young plants grow one year in the seed box, then transplant to the permanent bed. This must be rich, moist, loose soil, well shaded. Set the plants about six inches apart in rows 18 inches apart. Cultivate frequently, and each fall mulch the bed with straw or pine branches. If everything goes right the roots will be fit to sell the fifth year after transplanting. But a single drought may ruin the entire crop at any time.

Mice, moles and boys are the only pests of the crop.

In starting a new plantation, unless the seed can be had directly from the plant, it is best to begin with small roots which may be purchased for about \$2.00 per 100. H. P. Kelsey, Kawana, N. C., and Geo. Stanton, Summit Station, N. Y., supply such roots.

The plantations should be made from October 1 to April 1.

When ready for harvesting the entire bed should be carefully dug up and the crop assorted. Plants too small to sell may be replanted. The larger and smoother the roots the higher the price. The roots are simply washed clean and dried in sun or in a fruit evaporator. The following persons buy for export, viz.:

Wallace Bros., Statesville, N. C.; M. Sabel & Sons, Louisville, Ky.; S. Wells & Co., 211 Vine St., Cincinnati, O.; J. L. Cilley, 101 Gold St., New York.

GERALD McCARTHY, Biologist N. C. Department of Agriculture, Raleigh.

An Edgecombe subscriber asks about the reliability of the International Stock Feed. We take it that he refers to the brand which Commissioner Patterson has just exposed. See note on page 11 of last week's Progressive Farmer.

Some things none of us can well afford. One is to set poor plants or trees. Another is to set them on poorly prepared ground, and another is to work over them on poor land.

We have not always an opportunity of doing great things; but we can hourly perform insignificant actions with an ardent love.—Francis of Sales.